

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 277487
ORIGIN INT-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 OES-07 SMI-01 NSF-02 L-03
COME-00 EB-08 /037 R

DRAFTED BY INT/FWS J.L.PARADISO
APPROVED BY OES/ENP/EN:DRKING
INT/FWS/OES: J.L.SPINKS, JR
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AF/E:R.BAKER

-----060323 200257Z /62

R 182320Z NOV 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS STATE 277487

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, US, KE

SUBJECT: AFRICAN ELEPHANT SURVEY

1. REQUEST EMBASSY PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING MESSAGE TO DR.
IAIN DOUGLAS-HAMILTON, IUCN/WWF ELEPHANT SURVEY AND
CONSERVATION PROGRAM, POST OFFICE BOX 38, NAIVASHA, KENYA:

2. THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE HAS BECOME AWARE
THAT AT LEAST SOME POPULATIONS OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT MAY
BE SERIOUSLY DECLINING. THEREFORE, WE ARE VITALLY INTEREST-
ED IN OBTAINING ALL INFORMATION RELATIVE TO THE QUESTION OF
WHETHER THIS SPECIES QUALIFIES FOR LISTING AS ENDANGERED OR
THREATENED UNDER THE CRITERIA SET FORTH IN U.S. ENDANGERED
SPECIES ACT OF 1973. AN ENDANGERED SPECIES UNDER THIS ACT
IS ONE WHICH IS IN DANGER OF EXTINCTION THROUGHOUT ALL OR A
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SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF ITS RANGE; A THREATENED SPECIES IS
ONE WHICH IS LIKELY TO BECOME AN ENDANGERED SPECIES WITHIN
THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED WHEN
DETERMINING IF A SPECIES IS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED ARE:
1) THE PRESENT OR THREATENED DESTRUCTION OR MODIFICATION OF
ITS HABITAT; 2) OVERUTILIZATION FOR COMMERCIAL, SPORTING,
SCIENTIFIC OR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES; 3) DISEASE OR PREDATION;

4) THE INADEQUACY OF EXISTING REGULATORY MECHANISMS; OR 5) OTHER NATURAL OR MAN-MADE FACTORS.

3. THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IS AWARE OF YOUR WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PROJECT AND CONSIDERS THAT YOU WOULD BE IN THE BEST POSITION TO ADVISE ON THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT. THEREFORE, THE SERVICE WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR OPINION AS TO WHETHER THIS SPECIES SHOULD BE LISTED AS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED, AND FOR ANY INFORMATION SUPPORTING YOUR VIEWS. COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS YOU MAY HAVE IN RELATION TO THIS MATTER WOULD BE ESPECIALLY APPRECIATED. PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WOULD BE NUMERICAL DATA ON POPULATION SIZE AND TRENDS AS WELL AS INFORMATION ON HOW THESE DATA WERE OBTAINED. THE SERVICE WILL BE PLEASED TO REIMBURSE YOU FOR ALL COSTS INVOLVED IN DUPLICATING AND SENDING ANY MATERIAL YOU MAY HAVE.

4. IT HAS BEEN SUGGESTED THAT THE WORLD IVORY TRADE IS ONE OF THE MAJOR FACTORS IN THE DECLINE OF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT. JUDGING BY NEW REPORTS OF THE ADDRESS YOU GAVE AT THE WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS IN JOHANNESBURG IN OCTOBER, THAT CERTAINLY WOULD SEEM TO BE THE CASE. CAN YOU CONFIRM FOR US THAT THE PRESS ACCURATELY REPORTED YOUR STATEMENTS AND IN THE PROPER CONTEXT?

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5. IF THE AFRICAN ELEPHANT IS LISTED AS ENDANGERED OR THREATENED UNDER U.S. LAW, THE IMPORTATION OF IVORY (AS WELL AS ANY OTHER ELEPHANT PRODUCTS) FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES INTO THE UNITED STATES WOULD BE EITHER COMPLETELY PROHIBITED, OR AT LEAST SUBJECT TO WHATEVER REGULATIONS ARE DEEMED NECESSARY, AND ADVISABLE FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE SPECIES. THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO SUGGEST WHAT MEASURES ALONG THESE LINES COULD BE TAKEN BY THE UNITED STATES WHICH WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE ELEPHANT.

6. THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL FOR ANY ASSISTANCE YOU CAN GIVE, AND WISHES YOU SUCCESS IN YOUR WORLD WILDLIFE FUND PROJECT.

7. COPY OF PRESS REPORT ON JOHANNESBURG SPEECH IS BEING SENT SEPARATELY. IUCN, MORGES, HAS BEEN NOTIFIED THAT YOU ARE BEING CONTACTED DIRECTLY ON THIS MATTER. COPIES OF PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS MAY BE SENT TO THE U.S. EMBASSY, NAIROBI, FOR FORWARDING TO THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, WASHINGTON, D.C., ATTN: OES.

8. FOR INFO EMBASSY: PRESS REPORT BEING AIR POUCHED
SEPARATELY. EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN EXPEDITING REQUEST IS
MUCH APPRECIATED BY THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 18-Nov-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Subject: AFRICAN ELEPHANT SURVEY
TAGS: SENV, US, KE
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